

Overflows from South Milton Treatment Plant

Notes of meeting with South West Water 27 February 2024

Present:

Cllr Sam Dennis - SHDC
Andy Carmichael – Lead CSO Engineer for SWW
Charlotte Bacon – Community Officer for SWW
Mike Hodges - Thurlestone resident
Nick Townsend - South Milton resident

Background

The meeting was arranged to discuss the frequent and prolonged overflows from the South Milton Treatment Plant. I found the meeting very informative and am hopeful it will lead to swift identification and rectification of the excess flows into the South Milton Treatment plant.

I have set out below the main points from the meeting and the actions with responsible person highlighted in bold.

Excess Flows to treatment plant

SWW confirmed:

- The flows from the South Milton catchment are as expected.
- The flows from the Buckland catchment are as expected.
- The flows from the South Thurlestone catchment are excessive with the pumping station at the former treatment plant site operating for longer and harder than expected.

The possible sources of the excess flows were discussed at length, and a map was marked up by SWW on areas in the catchment where there might be excessive infiltration, and possible point sources such as a private pumping station and the outfall to the decommissioned treatment plant. **SWW** will focus their investigations on these areas with assistance from **Mike Hodges**. In the meantime, **Mike** will walk the area to identify other possible sources.

South Milton treatment plant

SWW confirmed:

- The storm storage capacity is currently being increased with the work due to be completed in the spring (weather dependent). Also, in the longer term, further storm storage will be provided at the Thurlestone pumping station by making use of the redundant tanks in the decommissioned treatment works.
- The upgrade to reduce the phosphate discharge to < 0.25mg/l is in hand
- The treatment plant capacity will be increased in the coming years to cope with the projected 2050 population - the design criteria will be two times population flows for normal operation, and six times population flow for storms.

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CSOs

SWW are working towards the Government set target of less than 10 CSO spills per year by 2050. If the work to identify the source of excess flow into the treatment plant is successful, this target may be achieved earlier.

SWW will confirm the location of the rain gauge used to model the catchment (and overflows) and advise if Mike and Nick's local gauges might be better for modelling.

The Waterfit maps provide current information on CSO spills. **Charlotte** to check if more detailed information for past events can be provided to Mike and Nick.

Signage at South Milton Ley lagoon/beach

SWW has provided SHDC with suggested wording for the proposed signage. **Sam Dennis** to follow up.

Nick Townsend

29 February 2024